

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A data generating device for a bulk vending machine having a coin mechanism having a selectively rotatable cam, comprising:

5                   a data compilation/transfer device; and  
                  a switch assembly in communication with said data compilation/transfer device;  
                  wherein said switch assembly is attached to said coin mechanism of said bulk vending machine in such a way that a portion of said switch is contacted by a portion of said cam when said cam rotates, causing said switch to close thereby causing said data compilation/transfer  
10               device to compile data.

2. A data generating device as recited in claim 1, wherein said data compilation/transfer device is self-powered by an attached battery.

15   3. A data generating device for a bulk vending machine having a coin mechanism having a selectively rotatable cam, comprising:

                  a data compilation/transfer device; and  
                  a reed-switch assembly in communication with said data compilation/transfer device, comprising:  
20                   a bracket assembly having a first substantially fixed arm and a second selectively pivotal arm;  
                  a reed-switch attached to said first arm at a first end thereof;  
                  a magnet attached to said second arm at a first end thereof; and  
                  a spring assembly attached between said first and second arms, positioning  
25   said second arm in an open relationship to said first arm for an at-rest position of said reed-switch assembly;

                  wherein said reed-switch assembly is attached to said coin mechanism in such a way that rotation of said cam causes an eccentrically shaped portion of said cam to cause said second arm of said reed-switch assembly to pivot, closing said reed-switch assembly and bringing said magnet

proximate to said reed-switch thereby causing said data compilation/transfer device to compile data.

4. A data generating device as recited in claim 3, wherein said data compilation/transfer device is self-powered by an attached battery.

5. A data generating device for a bulk vending machine having a coin mechanism having a selectively rotatable cam, comprising:

a data compilation/transfer device; and

a reed-switch attached to said coin mechanism in such a position as to be in a working relationship with a magnet attached to an eccentric portion of said cam, when said magnet is proximate to said reed-switch because of said rotation of said cam;

wherein said data compilation/transfer device compiles data when said magnet is rotated proximate to said reed-switch by said cam.

6. A data generating device as recited in claim 5, wherein said data compilation/transfer device is self-powered by an attached battery.

7. A data generating device for a bulk vending machine having a coin mechanism having a selectively rotatable cam, comprising:

a data compilation/transfer device; and

an inductive coil attached to said coin mechanism in such a position as to be in a working relationship with a metal piece attached to an eccentric portion of said cam, when said metal piece is proximate said inductive coil because of said rotation of said cam;

wherein said data compilation/transfer device compiles data when said metal piece is rotated proximate to said inductive coil by said cam.

8. A data generating device as recited in claim 7, wherein said data compilation/transfer device is self-powered by an attached battery.